

got through and he turned me off that quickly. But we must be strong and we must persevere. I had started talking earlier about the obligation of politicians but I'd like to expand that to people in public life, period. There is a tendency when somebody is in public life for the common ordinary citizen who works for a living or doesn't work for a living but who is out there trying to make it from one part of the day to the other to get the feeling that people who are in public life are bigger than life, can do more things than what is considered in an ordinary person. That is not the case at all. People in public life are often given tools, a forum or the opportunity to do things that might have more impact because of where they are placed. Many what we call ordinary people, if given the opportunity, could do great and profound and wonderful things, but because they think you have to have a badge or a title or an office, they undervalue what they are and what they can do and as a result there is a vast pool of talent in this country which is never tapped. And it is not tapped because the education system, the systems of religion and politics do not encourage people to develop their individual talents and abilities. These institutions encourage people to blindly follow, to hear a command and almost like the Pavlovian response, behave a certain way when a certain stimulus is applied. What I would like to see happen, and when I talk to youngsters I try to emphasize it, thinking is the important thing, asking questions is very, very important. Anybody who brings a point of view should be able to answer questions that would be posed with reference to that point of view and if we don't know the answer we seek it. The development of a vocabulary obviously is of great help and if those who are in public life would think in terms of encouraging other people to believe that they can do better than what they are doing, even if they don't do exactly what the one in public life is doing, or if they undertake to do that but don't do it as well, there should be no discouragement. Activities long engaged in should improve whoever is engaging in that activity, it should improve their ability to do it. So a novice should not be expected to do something as well as a veteran if the veteran has worked at it. So if we could encourage people to stop thinking of themselves as the member of a faceless, undifferentiated herd, but as an individual with abilities and contributions to make, there would be more of an inclination on the part of people to participate in public life, the life of their community, the life of their family. But as long as there is a lack of self-respect, as long as there is a lack of self-confidence, people will drift and the last voice they heard